1	2	3	4
1993	1334	36	1370
1994	1520	47	1567
1995	1603	76	1679
1996	1599	99	1698
1997	1716	238	1954
1998.	2052	221	2273
1999	1662	418	2080
2000	2857	521	3378
2001	2723	519	3242
2002	5047	1045	6092
2003	7464	3484	10948
2004	16332	2195	18527
2005	7160	1440	8600
TOTAL :	60958	11323	72281

Shortage of judges

†1516. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing numbers of judges working in Supreme Court and High Courts of the country are less than their sanctioned strength;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed its adverse impact pn functioning of the courts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the estimated number of cases per annum which remained unsettled as a result thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) The sanctioned strength as also the number of posts lying vacant in Supreme Court and various High Courts as on 1.8.2005 is given at Statement-I *(See* below):—

Filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep arising on account of retirements, resignation or elevation of Judges.

Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6,1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1.998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and anticipated vacancies during the next six months. In response to these efforts, 86 proposals for appointments have been received from the Chief Justices of High Courts with regard to 134 vacancies obtaining as on 1.8.2005.

A Statement showing the pedency position in the High Courts as per the information available is given at Statement-ll *(See* below).

The pendency of cases in the Courts could be ascribed to various factors, which *inter-alia,* include vacancies of Judges, new legislations, substantial increase in fresh institution of cases, rise in population, heightened awareness of rights on the part of the citizens, granting of adjournments, industrial development in the country, increase in trade and commerce and socio-economic matters, legislative and administrative aspects touching on the life of citizens, lawyers' strikes etc.

Statement-I

Statement showing the sanctioned strength, No. of Judges in position, vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts and the proposals in the pipeline as on 1.8.2005

SI.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned strength	Judges in position	Number of vacancies	No. of recommen-dations received
1	2	3	4	5	6
A.	Supreme Court of India	26	23	03	—
B.	High Courts				
1.	Allahabad	95	74	21	15
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	30	09	—
3.	Bombay	60	60	—	—
4.	Calcutta	50	33	17	13
5.	Chhattisgarh	08	08	—	—
6.	Delhi	33	28	05	03
7.	Gauhati	19	18	01	—
8.	Gujarat	42	35	07	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	08	07	01	03
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	11	03	01
11.	Jharkhand	12	06	06	05
12.	Karnataka	40	34	06	05
13.	Kerala	29	28	01	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	36	32	04	06

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Madras	42	24	18	32
16.	Orissa	20	14	06	02
17.	Patna	31	23	08	—
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	29	11	-
19.	Rajasthan	40	31	09	01
20.	Sikkim	03	02	. 01	—
21.	Uttaranchal	09	09	—	—
	TOTAL	670	536	134	86

Statement-ll

Statement showing pendency of cases in the High Courts as on 31.12.2004

SI. No.	Name of the High Court	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	544655	175993	720648
2.	A. P.	164915	17226	182141
3.	Bombay	288454	37330	325784
4.	Calcutta	212448	40270	252718
5.	Delhi	60353	10772	71125
6.	Gujarat	113505	25962	139467
7.	Gauhati	50442	6939	57381
8.	H.P.	17939	5600	23539
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	42417	2435	44852
10.	Karnataka	118899	10754	129653

1 2	3	4	5
11. Kerala	113652	21752	135404
12. Madras	275730	23029	298759
13. M.P.	141785	59133	200918
14. Orissa	91996	14553	106549
15. Patna	63290	21658	84948
16. Punjab & Haryana	218457	46845	265302
17. Rajasthan	146447	57901	204348
18. Sikkim	50	5	55
19. Uttaranchal	29850	6048	35898
20. Chhattisgarh	42158	21574	63732
21. Jharkhand	20865	14947	35812
TOTAL :	2758307	620726	3379033

National Legal Services Authority Scheme

†1517. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring improvement in the National Legal Services Authority Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the objectives of the Legal Services Authority Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The recent Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries-2005 held in Shimla during 10-11 June, 2005, has made a number of recommendations for improving the Legal Aid System in the country. An extract of the relevant

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.